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Car Defects

To the Editor of The Times:

In his role as guest editor on your editorial page Paul Miller's comments on the auto safety hearings boil down to this: It is in our best interest not to hold auto safety hearings which might affect business and upset the stockmarket.

Rather than upset business he would forego protection for the consumer and legislation that might possibly save thousands of lives a year.

"The nut behind the wheel" as described by Mr. Miller undoubtedly accounts for a good part of the accident rate.

However, the hearings brought out facts concerning mechanical defects in new cars and the startling revelation that close to 22 per cent of cars produced in recent years have been recalled for various corrective procedures.

The increasing incidence of one-car accidents occurring in daylight hours on straight stretches of roads makes one wonder if "the nut holding the car together" may not be a bigger factor than we realized in our accident rate.

Regarding Senator Fulbright, Mr. Miller supports William White's assertion that the Senator and those with him who feel that our policy in Viet Nam is wrong constitute a "junta."

This so-called junta consists of elected representatives who have been chosen by you and me to look out for our interests, represent us and to give advice and consent to the executive branch.

In truth, our government is ruled by a cabal. Webster defines a cabal as a secret association of a few designing persons. I think this description pretty well fits Mr. McNamara, Mr. Rusk, the Joint Chiefs, the CIA, etc. The only member in this group elected by the people is the President.

Finally, he concludes that Johnson had the last word at Princeton when he said we do not exercise our power in this century in arrogance, but in agony and always with reluctance and restraint.

I wonder if the people of Mexico, Santo Domingo, Cuba, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and in other parts of the world would agree with this and do Mr. Miller and Mr. Johnson think that the technique of saturation bombing and use of napalm in Viet Nam is "using power with great restraint"?

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